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June 29, 1995

Mr. William F. Caton  
Acting Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222  
Washington, DC 20554Re: Permissible Ex Parte Presentations in MM Docket No. 87-268 and  
ET Docket No. 95-18, 94-31 and 94-32

Dear Mr. Caton:

This letter is submitted on behalf of Association for Maximum Service Television, Inc., Association of America's Public Television Stations, Association of Independent Television Stations, Inc., CBS, Inc., Capital Cities/ABC, Inc., Fox, Inc., National Association of Broadcasters, National Broadcasting Co., Public Broadcasting Service and Tribune Broadcasting Company, all of whom are members of the Broadcasters Caucus of the Advanced Television Systems Committee.

On Thursday, June 22, 1995, and on Monday, June 26, 1995, representatives of the named organizations held five separate meetings with Chairman Hundt (and members of his staff) and with Commissioners Quello, Barrett, Ness and Chong (and members of their staffs) to discuss a variety of matters relating to the Commission's pending proceedings (captioned above) with reference to advanced television and broadcast auxiliary spectrum.

While the views expressed by members of the group have generally already been put forward in comments filed by those members in the proceedings at issue, this letter will summarize the main points made in those meetings:

1. Initial eligibility for ATV licenses should be limited to existing broadcasters.

2. The Commission should resolve allotments/assignments issues in the same time frame and same report and order as the ATV standard and should adopt the methodology and principles put forward by the member organizations of the Broadcasters Caucus and many other broadcast organizations -- a methodology and set of principles designed to replicate and maximize ATV service areas and to minimize interference into NTSC.

3. The member organizations support the Grand Alliance system, but also support the Advisory Committee process for evaluating COFDM.

4. The Commission should be flexible in implementing its ATV construction deadlines to take into account the costs to broadcasters, the special problems of smaller and public stations, and the practical problems, such as local zoning regulations, that broadcasters face in moving forward with construction.

5. It is not necessary for the Commission to mandate that the entire capacity of the new ATV system be used for high-end full-resolution transmissions. Instead, it should allow flexibility in its use.

6. The Commission should protect broadcaster needs for broadcaster auxiliary spectrum for ATV in making decisions on spectrum re-allocation in ET Dockets 95-18, 94-31 and 94-32.

7. The Commission should not select a date certain for broadcasters to return one of the transition period channels until it becomes clear when the public at large will have the ability to receive ATV.

Respectfully,



Sam Antar

SA/mrg

cc: Chairman Reed Hundt  
Commissioner James Quello  
Commissioner Andrew Barrett  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Rachelle Chong

Jonathan Blake (Covington & Burling), Joseph Flaherty (CBS),  
Mark Johnson (CBS), Marilyn Mohrman-Gillis (APTS),  
Molly Pauker (Fox), Lev Pope (INTV), Mark Richer (PBS),  
Valerie Schulte (NAB), Michael Sherlock (NBC), Margita White  
(MSTV)